

ABSTRACT

A compression-type drop wire clamp assembly for use in suspending and directing cables and wires relative to supporting structures, such as a poles or buildings, is provided. More specifically, the improved drop wire clamp assembly is designed for use in suspending and directing sensitive cables and wires, such as fiber optic cables and wires. The drop wire clamp assembly includes a tapered housing, a mating tapered slide assembly, a hanger portion for securing the assembly to the supporting structure, and a shim. The housing and the shim each include a longitudinal groove, as well as gripping surfaces. The fiber optic cable, or other electrical cable, is sandwiched between the housing and the shim within the longitudinal grooves of the housing and shim. The gripping surfaces of the housing and shim engage the cable in such a way as to prevent damage to the cable or wire caused by the compressive force or pressure exerted thereto, while allowing the drop wire clamp assembly to sufficiently secure the cable thereto. That is, the compressive force exerted on the cable is exerted on the more durable support portions of the cable and little or no compressive force is exerted on the signal-carrying portion of the cable. Thus, damage to the signal-carrying portion of the cable, and the attenuation of the signal caused by such damage, may be prevented.